

REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration is requested.

By this Amendment, claims 19, 21, 22, 35, and 36 have been amended. Claims 19-36 are pending.

Claims 19, 21, 22, and 35 were objected to for the informalities listed in item 4 on page 2 of the Office Action. Claims 19, 21, 22, and 35 have been amended herein, generally in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions, so as to address the informalities.

Claim 36 has been objected to as being a substantial duplicate of claim 19. This objection is traversed. Claims 19 and 36 have different scopes at least because claim 19 recites that "the common key control apparatus includes, data transmission processing means for transmitting a first status transition request to all general communication apparatuses that have made a transition to a distribution completed status," and claim 36 recites that "the common key control apparatus transmits the first status transition request to all general communication apparatuses from which a new common key update reply has been transmitted after a new common key update request was transmitted to all the general communication apparatuses." This difference is not a mere difference in wording for the same claim feature, but clearly represents the recitation of different features of the invention. Since claims 19 and 36 recite different features and have different scopes at least for the reason set forth above, claim 36 is not a substantial duplicate of claim 19.

In view of the above, it is submitted that claims 19-36 are allowable over the prior art of record, and that the present application is in condition for allowance.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone to resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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